



STEVENSVILLE NEWSLETTER

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Principal's message...

This past month, you received your child's Progress Report Card and many classes used Student Led Conferencing as the format for the interview. What impressed us the most was the connection the students made to how their academic performance and learning skills were reflected in their report card. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students, under the direction of their teacher, to reflect on what they have accomplished to date. More importantly, they participated in setting a direction for where they need to go next. The best part is that you, as parents, were able to be a key part of that process. Thank you for your continued involvement in working together to help every student achieve their very best. Also, a great big thank you to all of those parents and students that made our Christmas Bazaar such a success.

December's calendar is full of fun activities. Our grade 6, 7, and 8 classes will attend the annual Christmas Concert at the Buffalo Philharmonic on Dec. 9th. It is a unique opportunity to see world class musicians performing at Kleinhan's Music Hall.

Our Christmas Concert performances are on Dec. 15th at 2:00 and 7:00. Please join us as we celebrate the season with a musical showcase. Canned good donations are always welcome and will be accepted that evening at the door.

Finally, you may notice that our school year runs very close to Christmas. In order to help families that have indicated they have travel plans, ALL school and class Christmas functions will take place on or before Dec. 22nd. Our final Celebration Assembly and Christmas Carol Sing-Along will be on the 22nd as well as any class parties. This will allow us to celebrate together and say goodbye before the break. Friday Dec. 23rd will be a quiet Christmas cleanup day.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all the families who filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. A total of approximately 80 shoe boxes were collected in November. They will soon be bringing smiles to many little faces around the world this Christmas Season.



Thanks again for taking the time and for giving so generously to this very special project.

Sincerely, Mrs. M. Sider

Christmas Concert...



Dress Rehearsal is on Wednesday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m. This performance is open to parents who are unable to attend either one of the other performances on Thursday. Thursday, December 15th we will have two performances the first at 2:00 p.m. and the second at 7:00 p.m. For the 7:00 p.m. performance please have your child at the school by 6:30 p.m. All students need to wear white tops (without graphics) and black or dark bottoms.

**Celebrating our Students-
Community Carol-Sing** - everyone is welcome to join us in our final Carol Sing on Thursday, December 22nd at 9:00 a.m. following our Celebrating our Students Assembly.





The Stevensville Lego Robotics Club will be competing at the 2011 Niagara Regional Qualifying Tournament on December 17 at the Niagara College Campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This is the 6th season for our club and we have been to the Ontario Championships for the last three years. To learn more about we do visit <http://firstlegoleague.org/> or to see what we do go to youtube.com and search food factor missions.

Junior Skating...

The Grade 4, 4/5 and 5 classes went skating in on Friday (Nov. 18th). It was a great afternoon of exercise and fun. There are some really skilled skaters who played well together, challenging themselves and being mindful of beginners on the ice. It was a great opportunity for junior students of all skating abilities to experience an open skate. Special congratulations to those skaters who tried all afternoon to get better.



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages six to 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours per day, or 62 per cent of their waking hours, being sedentary?

Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day:

- Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day
- Encourage children and youth to play outdoors
- Play outside with your children:
 - Go for walks, hikes, build snowmen, go tobogganing
 - Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide
 - Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects

For more information go to www.activehealthykids.ca or www.participaction.com

Celebrating our Students...



At Stevensville School, the students created criteria of what Integrity means to them. Staff and students used the criteria to pick students who displayed the trait.

At Stevensville Integrity means:

- Doing what you say you will do
- Always being honest
- Doing what is right
- You can be trusted by friends and adults to make the right choices
- Standing up for what you think is right

Congratulations to the following students for showing Integrity in the month of November.

Kindergarten: Isaac Z, Phoenix M, Brian C, Carson A

Primary: Allie O, Tighe F, Kessler F, Jesselyn M, Spencer C, Hayden P, Noah W, Emilie H, Georgia S, Adam W

Junior: Bryce F, Riana C, Lauren P, Deryk C, Lucas C, Carson E, Cassie K, Hunter Z, Hollie W

Intermediate: Abbey S, Dharma B, Elysse F, Jesse F, Owen S, Katelyn F, Cody S, Kelsey H, Sam O.

We are proud to celebrate the following students for consistently showing effort and working hard.

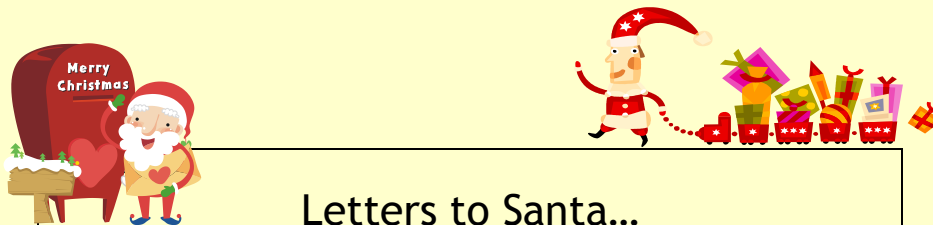
Kindergarten: Madison L, Wes A

Primary: Tyler T, Jon J, Jessyca H, Karah B, Dan S

Junior: Madison M, Joshua D, Madison F, Zach T, Declan C, Wyatt H, Chloe W, Jordan H, Cassie B

Intermediate: Connor C, Jonnie H, Bethany H, Evelyn H

**I've got a theory that if you give 100 percent all of the time,
somehow things will work out in the end. ~Larry Bird**



Letters to Santa...

The Stevensville Kinsman & Kinettes have arranged for a mail box to be set up at Memory Park for all children who want to send a letter to Santa.

Questions People Ask About Math!

Math homework is due tomorrow- how can I help?

The best thing to do is ask questions and listen to what your child says. Sometimes as they start to explain the answer or process to you, your child will figure out the problem. Remind students to show all their work, including their thinking process. This information may help them later as they review the question to improve upon their answer or simply help them remember how they did it!

Examples of questions that can help you and your child as you tackle math homework:

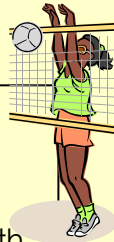
- What is the problem you are working on?
- Are there instructions? What do they say?
- Are there any words in the problem or instructions that you don't understand?
- Where do you think you should begin?
- Is there anything that you already know that could help you solve this problem?
- Do you have other problems like this one?
- Can you explain to me what the teacher asked you to do?

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Intermediate Girls Volleyball...

The Intermediate Girls Volleyball team had a fantastic season this year, finished FIRST in both the season and the play-offs. Congratulations to all the girls for their commitment and teamwork throughout the season.

Way to go Hawks!



Intermediate Boys Volleyball...

The Intermediate Boys Volleyball team had a fantastic season, winning all playoff games to take the Region Championship! We are number 1! The boys are to be commended for their winning attitudes, hard work and determination. Way to go Hawks!



Tis the Season....

At this time of year, let us be thankful for our healthy families. The Operating Room nurses at McMaster Children's Hospital would like to give every child having surgery during the month of December a teddy bear. The day of their surgery, the child chooses the bear and holds it until he/she "falls asleep". It is then given to the parents to hug and hold during this emotional time. This small teddy bear really does mean a lot.

If you would like to help you can send a small, hand held, brand new/with tags teddy bear to school with your child. The bears will be presented to an OR nurse at the Christmas Concert December 15th. Any extra bears will be sent to the Oncology ward at Mac for Christmas morning. Thank you so much for your generosity! Sincerely, Mrs. Vanderklei

211 - When you don't know where to turn.

211 helps people find the right community and social services. Free Confidential, Live answer 24/7.

What do you do when you or someone you care about needs help, but you don't know where to turn?

The answer is simple: Call 211 or go to www.211ontario.ca for information about local community and social services

Help Your Child Develop Their Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills, the small muscles of the hand your body works when using small objects, provide the foundation that your child needs to print and write and will help your child become literate.

By the age of six years, children should be able to print their name and most letters, draw some simple pictures (person, tree, house), colour detailed pictures, and dress independently. The following strategies are fun and easy to do at home and allow you to spend some quality time with your child. They support these little learners in a big way!

1. String small beads, fruit loops and cheerios, popcorn, etc.
2. Knead and build with plasticine and/or clay
3. Find hidden objects buried in dough and use tweezers to get the objects out
4. Draw on a mirror or on bathroom tiles with foam soap or shaving cream
5. Create a design on heavy paper using a hole punch
6. Practice with buttons and zippers
7. Use an egg timer when your child is dressing or undressing
8. Play pegboard games
9. Thread small marshmallows onto toothpicks
10. Play with interlocking blocks and puzzles that involve manipulation of small pieces

If you have concerns that your child's fine motor skills are not developing, look to see if your child has developed hand dominance, can cut along a straight line or circle, and can hold their pencil between their thumb and second and third fingertips. If they cannot, meet with your child's teacher to find ways to promote fine motor development within the classroom.

Information about Cold Weather Alerts at DSNB

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we shorten recess or keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.
- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.

